

URBAN CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION

Promote Community Identity and Pride

San José is a young city when measured by the relative age of its neighborhoods and housing stock. Most of the city's housing stock was built since 1950. *The San José General Plan*, the City's long range blueprint for physical development, recognizes the importance of sustaining viable neighborhoods.



San José's neighborhoods are more than a collection of houses. Residents have a need to belong to a neighborhood with community identity that promotes civic pride and a concern for the community. The development of neighborhood participation through citizen organizations and local improvement activities is essential to maintaining the high quality of life for all San José residents.

The *San José 2020 General Plan* sets forth the policies which seek to protect neighborhoods. These policies require new development to be compatible with existing neighborhoods. The City's growth control measures ensure that the city develops within a prescribed boundary, assuring existing neighborhoods of high levels of City services. Without growth controls, existing neighborhoods would be competing with far-reaching subdivisions for parks, libraries, police, and fire protection. The City's economic development activities seek to obtain a solid tax base to pay for city services to residents.

The City of San José is also committed to the protection of historic resources. The objective of preservation goes beyond saving an individual structure or even a group of structures that have historic or architectural significance. At a strategic level, preservation activities contribute visual evidence to a sense of community that grows out of San José's rich, historic past. Historic and architectural structures add inestimable character and interest to the city's identity.

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